A monthly publication of the Fraternity of Priests, Inc.

The Visitation

VOLUME XXXV ISSUE 9 AUGUST 2026

The Deeper the Wound, the Deeper the Forgiveness Needed

By Fr. Francis Dabre

"Father, I will never forgive that person till I go to grave," I was shocked to hear such a statement. When I asked certain questions, he revealed that the hurt is too deep, it is difficult to forgive. "I have tried but not possible, so I am leaving with it, so much grudge in my heart. I do feel at times the desire to let go, but I find it difficult."

I suggested to him to attend an inner healing retreat, where I was participating in it; after a few sessions, he decided to forgive and let go and let God. He was so much released of his burden, he felt light. I then began to reflect; there may be many who want to be free of this kind of dirt they carry on in their heart and their lives.

Reality of being wounded

Some may be aware that they are suffering for a long time; they carry on in life with a big wound or grudge. It does pain them, it hurts now and then. Some others may not be aware but it hurts them; it may be at the subconscious level. It has done damage but we may not be fully aware of it even though it disturbs them. All need to admit that there exist the realities of being wounded. We may be a devout and practicing catholic and attend Mass regularly, even go often to the sacrament of reconciliation. But we realize, deep down, there exists this pain.

Open the door from within

The bolt is from within, it needs to be opened from the inside. It is a decision to be taken seriously. In fact, it is NOT necessary to suffer at all. You may need some help from a priest or a charismatic leader who will lead you to Jesus our Lord. The church offers us plenty of opportunities to come out. It is foolish to carry on like this, when we have a solid option for it, there are so many people who have availed themselves to this facility the church offers and have come out fully. They are leading a good life now; we have so many testimonies to it.

Jesus is the only Option

John, 10, 10, says I have come so that you may life, life in its abundance, we are offered life in its fullness, totality, then why should be slave at all. **Mathew 11, 28**, we read, come to me all those who are labored and burdened, I will give you REST (from your deeper wounds). This REST is from physical, spiritual and psychological wounds, Jesus offers us full life in him.

We are called to enjoy this life, Isaiah 43, 1 to 5, Don't be afraid, I am with you, --- later we read (VV5) , you are very precious to me. The Lord invites is to be connected with him. **Ezekiel 36, 25--28**. We read that God gives us new heart and new spirit. He cleanses us and purifies us with holy water, he will pour the Holy Spirit in us and give us new life. He will remove the heart of stone and give us a heart of FLESH, what a promise we have, one needs to open up like the dam and the water will flow to us.

Is it practical? Yes it is practical, there are so many who can witness to it. There are special retreats conducted and are available and so many retreat centers, people who opted for it, they have come out of it. I conducted a retreat for the aspiring religious; it was the session of Inner Healing Session, where there was crying and shouting, to bring out the hurt and get forgiveness from Jesus as it was conducted before **Blessed Sacrament**. The Spirit was working so well that many got healed that night, many shared that they had long time kept in their heart and suffering and now felt total free. After the healing process, there was sharing and they all said it has empowered them and felt relieved. It is possible and many have personally experienced it.

Deeper forgiveness needed

The last words on the cross of

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Dear Fraternity Brothers and Friends of the Priesthood

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One of the objectives for the Fraternity of Priests is to inform our donors about the ongoing financial health and details of the organization. We thank those many faithful benefactors who help make our service possible. Thank you!

Fraternity Financial Report

Monthly Budget:
$4,750.00
Actual Donations:
$1,093.00
Budget Deficit:
$3,657.00

Current as of May 30, 2026.

Many years ago, I was part of a group of seminarians that attempted pottery at a local Catholic High School. We first learned how to knead clay. Then we watched a religious sister work with the clay on the pottery wheel. She made it look effortless.

Our first task was to center the clay on the spinning wheel. This sounded easy. How wrong I was! Instead of the clay spinning inside my wet, but steady hands, my hands and arms were spinning around the wheel by the clay which was slightly off-center! With great effort, I was able to "center" the clay. It spun smoothly through wet hands.

It was now time to mold a vessel from this clay. As soon as I plunged my thumb into this 'centered' clay, it went off center! I was back to attempting to center the clay. My pottery career ended shortly thereafter.

I have often reflected on my attempt to create a piece of pottery. The potter can do nothing without the clay remaining in the center of the wheel. The Lord's work in us can be hindered unless we are centered on Him and remain in His hands. This means keeping the Lord first in our lives.

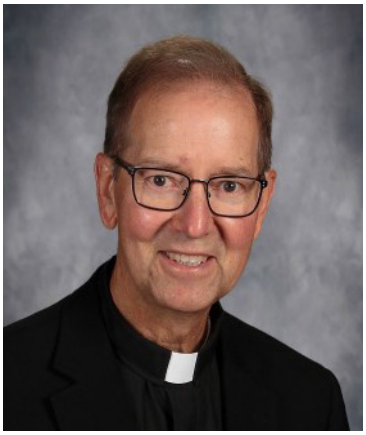
The demands and pace of priestly ministry can easily skew our relationship with the Lord and our brother priests. We find it easy to justify doing the work of the Lord while neglecting the Lord of the work and our brother priests.

Fraternity of Priests helps us keep things in order. Our mission statement reads: *We, the Fraternity of Priests, believe that an effective priestly ministry flows out of relatedness., first with God and then with brother priests. Thus, to keep our efforts fruitful, we see to order our lives as follows:*

First, the Lord in all things

Next, our brother priests

Finally, our ministry, which flows from the above relationships



This order is seen in the life of Jesus Christ. He cultivated his relationship with the Father by rising early in the morning to pray by himself (Mark1:35). He then invested significant time with his Apostles. This time with Jesus as a group was formative. Finally, Jesus ministered to individuals and the crowds. The temptation for diocesan priests is to skip that second step-formative time with brother priests.

My home parish pastor spent time as a Navy Chaplain during World War II. At one time he was the only priest on a ship with over two thousand sailors. Ministering to them was not a problem. However, he was acutely aware that there was no priest available to minister to him. Upon his honorable discharge from the service, he made it a point to foster priestly fraternity throughout his priesthood.

Let us pray for grace to order our priorities according to our vocation. By keeping the Lord first in our lives and by investing ourselves in the lives our brother priests, we will be better able to compassionately and courageously minister to the people God has called us to serve.

In Christ,

Fr. Bob Franco

Fr. Bob Franco
Board Chair, Cleveland

Editor's Note: Please send articles, comments, and photos to the our editor, Fr. Bob Carr, via e-mail to editor@fraternityofpriests.org. Newsletter material from all Fraternity members is gratefully accepted.

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Jesus our Lord are very important, "Father Forgive them as they don't know what they are doing." Jesus, even at the time of healing or any miracles Jesus conducted, Jesus gives priority to forgiveness over healing. So healing is joined with forgiveness.

The paralytic person was brought for physical healing, but Jesus wanted to show to the crowd that forgiveness is also important, so he tells paralytic , "your sins are forgiven." Later on Jesus says , pick up your cot and walk. In fact Jesus wants us to have holistic health; because he has come to give us life in its abundance, **John, 10, 10**. The sinner woman at Matthew's house, receives more than others as her sins were more. She with her acts of repentance, receives more grace than others, as those present were not open to Jesus than the sinner woman. So, Jesus draws attention of all, that she has received more grace and power. When one repents and asks for forgiveness, he receives in abundance. We see so many examples in Holy Bible. At times we need to get deeper forgiveness, not superficial forgiveness. We need to go deeper and get Inner healing, it may even need a professional help to get deeper. It can be only done through the grace of God and not just professional help; one needs to go beyond human science, and ask for a special grace of Cross on Calvary to get totally free from our deeper wounds. One needs also to trust fully that Jesus has forgiven us through a process of sacrament of reconciliation and repentance. It is only Jesus who forgives us and gives us new life.

Conclusion

It is an opportunity to choose Jesus for his free grace, our deeper wounds are healed by our deeper forgiveness, and the Church offers us sacraments for our sanctification. It is even easily available for us freely; Jesus' promise becomes true in our lives. Let's try out as many have tried and got grace and are now very happy in their lives.

The Danger of AI

By Fr. Robert J Carr

There is a new danger in the computer world that we need to address. It is an aspect of AI that could get any one who does research into some trouble. Recently, I was looking up information for an article I was writing about one of these celebrity exorcists. I found a video where he spoke about not having a crucifix over "the marriage bed". It causes confusion in the spiritual world, he said.

You know from my writing that I do not like or recommend celebrity exorcists and was looking further into this statement when I found in the small print of the video description that this was AI. The video had a card of the speaker, so the video was the audio with a picture of the speaker and the title. The main attribute of the video in fact is its soundtrack.

However, it is quite possible the celebrity exorcist never said those words. It sounded like him, it was portrayed to be him but it was not him.

This is a great danger in general. Not only could someone use AI to imitate you, and those who warn against fraud claim that happens every day. If you do research for your homilies, you could make a claim of words a prominent preacher, priest, bishop, even the pope had said and he never said it. This could put you in an embarrassing, difficult or even legally troubling position.

I began on my own Substack to run my words through an AI detector so that I can place at the bottom of it that I do not use AI in order to write. The thought of using AI to compose anything I write I find repulsive. I want my words to be on that page and nobody else's. However, now we know that AI can actually create presentations that appear to be of a speaker that are not that speaker, may not be authorized by him or her, and may not be his or her words. That is a game changer for those who take what they present seriously.

Pope Leo's recently encyclical on AI and other issues is certainly timely and certainly worth our time reading and discussing. In light of current disputes in the Church over which liturgy is the appropriate one, which language is the appropriate one and which teachings are appropriate, we certainly, need to beware of those who may be using AI to portray incorrect teachings by anyone.

In my article on the celebrity exorcists who is known for actually preaching things that are not magisterial teaching, I wrote how people should judge his and all preaching based on what the Church actually teaches. Now that someone can produce a video that is totally fake but looks and/or sound real, that makes knowing and teaching only what the Church teaches more urgent.

Please send us your prayer intentions:_____

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THANK YOU FOR PRAYING FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY!

September 2026						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Rev. Joseph Luisi *Pittsburgh*	2 Rev. John Lynam *Pittsburgh*	3 **For the souls of our deceased FOP members**	4 **For prayer requests received**	5 **For our Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV**
6 Rev. Daniel Mahoney *Pittsburgh*	7 Rev. Nicholas Mastrangelo *Pittsburgh*	8 Rev. Kenneth Oldenski *Pittsburgh*	9 Rev. Thomas Sparacino *Pittsburgh*	10 Rev. John Helmueller *Sioux Falls*	11 Most Rev. Donald Kettler *Sioux Falls*	12 Rev. John Sweeney *Pittsburgh*
13 Rev. Paul Zywan *Pittsburgh*	14 Msgr. Cuthbert Alexander *Port-of-Spain*	15 Rev. Gerard Bernier *Port-of-Spain*	16 Rev. Riginald DeFour *Port-of-Spain*	17 Rev. Raymond Francis *Port-of-Spain*	18 Rev. Clifford Graham *Port-of-Spain*	19 Rev. Harold Imammshah *Port-of-Spain*
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A PRAYER FOR PRIESTS

O Jesus, Eternal High Priest, live in (name of priest), act in him, speak in and through him. Think your thoughts in his mind, love through his heart. Give him your own disposition and feelings. Teach, lead and guide him always. Correct, enlighten and expand his thoughts and behavior. Possess his soul, take over his entire personality and life. Replace him with yourself. Incline him to constant adoration and thanksgiving; pray in and through him. Let him live in you and keep him in this intimate union always.

O Mary, Immaculate Conception, Mother of Jesus and Mother of priests, pray and intercede for (.....). Amen.

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Dear Fr. Bob Franco,
This donation is to help the Fraternity of Priests in continuing their work of ministering to priests.

☐ $10 ☐ $25 ☐ $50 ☐ $100 ☐ Other $_____

The Fraternity of Priests pledge of financial accountability: We take very seriously the trust you put in us when you send a gift. We stand accountable before God and you to honor that trust. We pledge: To use your gift carefully and wisely, and not to ask for money that is not needed.

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